

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12
HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NEAE-00 /109 W
-----120246 241431Z /14

O 241413Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7127

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAIRO 09214

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PEPR PBOR EG IS US XF

SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF CARTER-BEGIN TALKS

REF: CAIRO 9130

SUMMARY: CAIRO DAILIES HIGHLIGHT "FAILURE" OF BEGIN-
CARTER TALKS. U.S. REPORTEDLY HAS "LOST HOPE" THAT BEGIN
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COULD BE HELPFUL TO PEACE PROCESS. BEGIN DESCRIBED HIS
TALKS AS "DIFFICULT" AND CLAIMED U.S. HAD WITHDRAWN HER
SUPPORT DUE TO EGYPTIAN PRESSURE. OPINION CRYSTALIZING
IN ISRAEL FOR FORMATION OF EMERGENCY COALITION GOVERNMENT.
AHAM SAYS U.S. AT LAST IS "EVEN-HANDED." END SUMMARY.

1. ATMOSPHERICS. HEADLINES MARCH 24 PROCLAIM "FAILURE"

OF BEGIN-CARTER TALKS AND ABSENCE JOINT COMMUNIQUE.
U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS IN "WORST CRISIS" AND CHARACTER-
IZED BY "SHARP DIFFERENCES AND TENSION." HEADLINES ALSO
NOTE "SHARP DIVISION IN ISRAEL" AND SENTIMENT FOR
"FORMATION EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT" THERE. BEGIN "ACCUSES
AMERICA OF GIVING UP HER SUPPORT TO ISRAEL" WHILE
"AMERICA LOSES HOPE IN BEGIN."

2. DIFFERENCES. PRESS HIGHLIGHTED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
U.S. AND ISRAEL ON 242, WITHDRAWAL, CONCEPT OF SECURITY,
SETTLEMENTS, AND AMERICAN AIRCRAFT PACKAGE, WHICH WERE
REASONS FOR ABSENCE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. BEGIN REPORTEDLY
CHARGED IN NATIONAL PRESS CLUB SPEECH THAT EGYPT RES-
PONSIBLE FOR U.S. WITHDRAWING SUPPORT FROM ISRAEL.
PAPERS NOTED DAYAN RETURN TO ISRAEL "AHEAD OF SCHEDULE"
AND SAY HE DESCRIBED "CRISIS" WITH U.S. AS WORSE SINCE
1956. ISRAELI PAPERS REPORTEDLY SAY OPINION IS CRYSTAL-
IZING FOR FORMATION OF EMERGENCY COALITION GOVERNMENT
TO CONFRONT CRISIS.

3. PALESTINIANS. AHRAM'S STORIES HAD U.S. OFFICIALS
ATTRIBUTING TO CARTER STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD NOT
"GIVE UP HIS CALL TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL HOME" ("WATAN
QAWMI") FOR THE PALESTINIANS. PORTRAYAL BY GUMHURIYYA
AND AKHBAR DIFFERENT. GUMHURIYYA SAID SENIOR U.S.
OFFICIAL REAFFIRMED U.S. POSITION AT ASWAN WHICH INCLUDED
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NECESSITY OF RECOGNIZING LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTIN-
IANS AND THEIR PARTICIPATING IN DETERMINING THEIR FUTURE.
AKHBAR HAD SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL SAYING THERE NO HOPE
FOR SETTLEMENT WITHOUT SOLVING PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN
ALL ITS ASPECTS.

4. COMMENTARY. GUMHURIYYA PORTRAYED PRESIDENT CARTER
AS SEEKING TO RALLY U.S. PUBLIC OPINION TO BRING PRESSURE.
TO BEAR ON BEGIN. PAPER ACCUSED BEGIN OF TRYING TO
MOBILIZE PUBLIC OPINION IN ISRAEL AND IN THE U.S.
GUMHURIYYA URGED ARABS TO THINK ABOUT THEIR NEXT STEP
AND NOT POSTPONE DECISION TO SEE WHAT ISRAEL WILL DO.
ALI HAMDI GAMAL MADE COMMENT IN AHRAM THAT IF EVEN-
HANDEDNESS OF U.S. WAS ONCE DREAM OF ARABS (HAYKAL
USED TO WRITE LONGINGLY ABOUT IT) THEIR DREAM HAS NOW
BECOME REALITY THANKS TO SADAT. EILTS

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Disposition Event:
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